



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Ralph-Peter Peters et al

Group Art Unit: 1723

Serial No: 10/804,220

Examiner: **Joseph Drodge**

Filed : **March 19, 2004**

For : **MICROSTRUCTURED SEPARATING DEVICE AND
MICROFLUIDIC PROCESS FOR SEPARATING LIQUID
COMPONENTS FROM A PARTICLE-CONTAINING LIQUID**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action of August 8, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9, 13-15 and 17-20 as being anticipated by U.S. 5,911,210 (Brody et al). The remaining claims were rejected as obvious over Brody et al in view of secondary references. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Both claims 1 and 21, the only independent claims, recite a microstructure keeping larger particles out of the liquid and slowing down smaller particles in the separating areas. The Examiner stated that Brody discloses a microstructure retaining larger particles and inherently slowing smaller particles and referred to column 3, lines 50-52, column 7, lines 32-36 and column 8, lines 58-59.

Column 3, lines 50-52 refers to the term microfilter and its abilities to keep particles of 0.1 microns or 0.01 microns from a fluid stream. Column 7, lines 32-36 refer to analysis of the filtrate and column 8, lines 58-59 refers to reverse flow through the filtrate to remove particles stuck on or near the barrier